

CSM Students Focus the Nation

Web seminar fails, students maintain vibrant discussion

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

If global warming does not exist, what do we lose by acting to cut emissions anyways? A dozen students and faculty members from the LAIS department gathered in Hill Hall 204 on Wednesday, January 30, to discuss the issue of global climate change. Initially planned as a viewing of the interactive web seminar (webinar), "The 2% Solution," technical difficulties shifted the "watch and comment" format to a more interactive general discussion. "Focus the Nation" produced the "2% solution" webinar featuring notable climate scientist Steven Schneider, "natural capitalism" founder Hunter Lovins, and sustainable jobs leader Van Jones discussing the issues raised by global warming and the possibilities of the "2% solution." The 2% solution calls for people to "cut roughly 2% of current warming levels for 40 years" said Woodson. This solution aims to mitigate the effects of a predicted three to four degree world temperature increase through reducing emissions 80% below current levels by 2050. Focus the Nation is an education initiative calling on students to end the nation's apathy towards the "civilizational challenge" of global climate change by discussing and finding solutions to the problem. Professor Carl Mitcham from LAIS began the discussion, as the webinar failed to load, by noting the US was "the leader in renewable energy technology." But, a failure in leadership and investment led countries such as Germany to supplant the US's dominance.

Tina Gianquitto, another LAIS professor and co-coordinator for the event, opened discussion to participants on three proposed methods of action to solve global warming: policy intervention, market-driven solutions, and grassroots efforts. "Most countries are not as well off as the US, and people concerned with eating can't focus on global warming," said student Kenneth Lo. He continued on the psychological problem of a solution. "People are hard to change and people are impatient." "Many adjustments are not necessarily going to be expensive," said Gianquitto, citing as an example the overall savings generated by switching from an incandescent to compact-fluorescent light bulb. Discussion shifted when LAIS professor and event co-coordinator Sandy Woodson asked: "Are we not obligated to change to cleaner technology?" Gianquitto and Woodson then constructed a matrix based on Pascal's Wager for global warming. The matrix illustrated the effects of acting on global warming depending on whether it exists or not. If global warming exists and we choose to act, humans can avert disaster and continue the species. If global warming does not exist and we choose to act, we will still have marginal positive benefits from cleaner technology. Topics continued to vary throughout the evening, including arguments on the merits of current tactics to convince people about environmental issues. The use of "charismatic megafauna" such as panda bears as "spokes-animals," and corporate "green-washing" were discussed.

National Geographic film and water security discussion inspire dialogue on the tipping point

Patrick Beseda
Staff Writer

"What makes me the most fearful is how increasing human populations will continue to impact the planet," Jonathon Stillman, PhD, said as he spoke about global climate change during this year's Focus The Nation presentation. CSM participated in the nationwide event that united campuses across America to raise awareness about the current global climate shift. "The idea of global warming is still abstract to many Americans because they are not actually feeling the heat," Stillman reiterated. *Strange Days on Planet Earth* was shown, followed by LAIS professor Dr. Hussein Amery's presentation concerning water security in the changing climate. "The essence of Focus The Nation is about changing the business-as-usual mindset," Amery said. Narrated by actor Edward Norton, the National Geographic series *Strange Days on Planet Earth* aims to increase national awareness about global warming. "In the year 2001, the International Climate Change Partnership ended the debate of 'is it real?' with their definitive report," the film stated. The debate now focuses on questions of action. What do we give up today to make our world better in the long run? What do we sacrifice, today, for the precious future of our children and future generations? According to many at the event, consequences may be more widespread than we can predict. Dr. Amery spoke of both the physical effects of the global climate change and the socio-political consequences that will occur as the climate



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

Planning for the Future: Dr. Hussein Amery, above, presents students with socio-political consequences of global warming.

moves toward a warmer temperature. Water security was Amery's focus as he talked of the "tipping point" for countries around the world. "The tipping point for poorer countries is much easier to reach than the tipping point of a country like ours," he said. Dr. Amery made clear the potential consequences of water shortages in poor or developing countries. As water becomes scarce, a downward spiral of social tension, government intervention, lack of trade, declining health, increasing poverty and violence push the country past the tipping point and

into chaos and out of existence. It is called global warming and its going to take a global change. "What I do affects you, and what you do affects me," Edward Norton stated as he concluded the film. This concept, on a global scale, can fully illustrate the larger picture. According to the film, "we are one globe and one world." Ideas have tipping points as well; it's going to be the accumulation of support from individuals, businesses, and governments that pushes the idea of changing global warming over the edge toward progress.

Climate change experts visit NHV seminars

Kyle Clark
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, January 29th, two representatives of Focus the Nation, Dr. Ryan Fogt of NOAA Research and Dr. Joe Barsugli of the University of Colorado Boulder, came to host part two of Climate Change Discussions. The presentation itself wasn't a lecture but a question and answer discussion. **Is carbon dioxide really the biggest problem with global warming? What about the natural kind formed everyday?** To see the extremity of today's carbon dioxide levels, we have to know what they were in the past. Under the many layers of Antarctic

ice, there are bubbles that contain atmospheric samples from hundreds of years ago. From those bubbles, we can assign a plot of carbon dioxide levels to a timeline. From scientific data, we can relate those carbon dioxide levels to the temperature of the Earth. Recently, both have spiked quite dramatically. We currently have 380 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. While that doesn't seem like much, it does appear to have a significant influence on the planet. To answer the question about naturally forming emissions, we have taken sample data from both populated and unpopulated areas to find how much natural carbon dioxide is actually being produced.

We have measured out that the anthropogenic carbon dioxide is many times more massive than the natural output by comparison. **What about water in the atmosphere?** Water is technically generating the greatest greenhouse effect, but we don't consider it an anthropogenic greenhouse gas. As we burn fossil fuels, we put more carbon dioxide into the air. That helps prevent the heat we receive from the sun from escaping. This evaporates water which amplifies the heating process even more. So, even though water is technically a greenhouse gas, its evaporation into the atmosphere is only a side effect. **SEE "PANEL" PG 4**

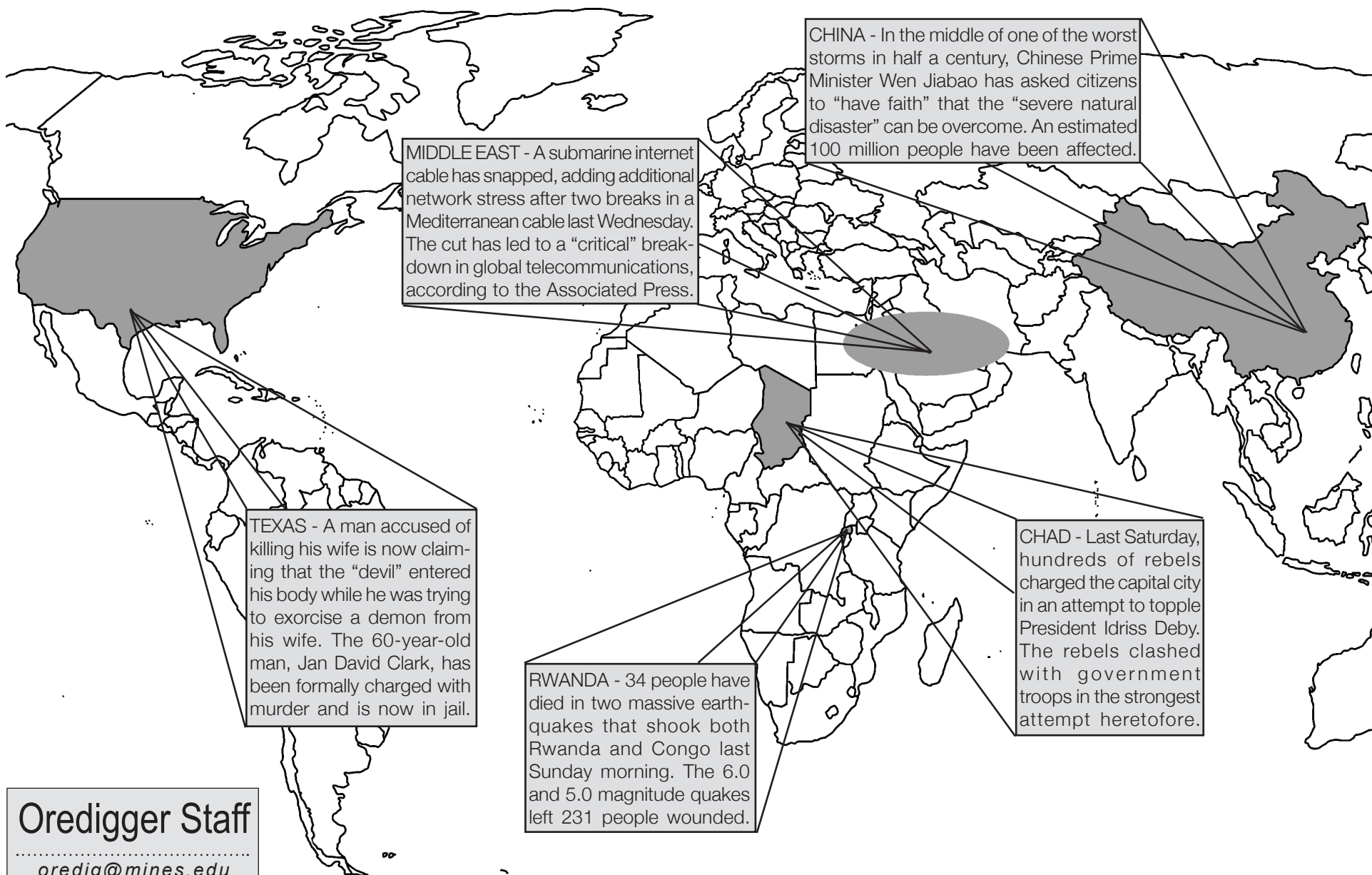
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ZACH AMAN / OREDIGGER

World News in Brief

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Crime spree at CSM

Sport Utility Vehicle, laptop, wallet missing

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

Last Wednesday, a 2005 Nissan Xterra and laptop computer were stolen from the Colorado School of Mines campus, establishing one of the largest campus crime sprees in the school history.

Police Chief Keith Turney, of CSM's Department of Public Safety, issued a campus-wide e-mail last Thursday explaining the criminal events. The message stated that the Xterra was stolen between 3:00 and 3:30 PM and the keys were "taken off a desk in an open, unoccupied office inside the [Brown] building." Similarly, the laptop was taken from an "open, unoccupied residence hall room in Morgan Hall."

Additionally, a wallet was either

lost or stolen from "in or near" the Student Center on campus last Wednesday. Turney noted that a credit card from this wallet was "fraudulently used in Aurora."

Marcia Williams, Director of Integrated Marketing Communications at CSM, said, "We don't hear of incidents such as this very often at Mines, so we tend to become complacent. The crime alert this week from Public Safety was a real attention-getter."

Turney also commented on the unusual nature of the crime spree. "This is very unusual," he said. "When you have a bunch of things that happen at the same time, you make the assumption that they're connected. It would be more likely that the car theft was correlated to the 2 other opportunity thefts in the residence halls." Turney added

that the department has not concluded the events are wholly linked.

According to Turney, the department received two calls describing a suspicious person; police records formalize the description as a "black male, 26-30 years old, 6 feet tall, slim, with a black stocking cap, black jacket, and black backpack." The suspect was seen driving a cab on campus.

Public Safety has asked that all individuals with information regarding these events contact the department at 303-273-3333 and speak with an officer.

Williams concluded, "As a result, we'll all be more aware of protecting our personal property and reporting suspicious activities—here on campus and everywhere. I appreciate that Keith Turney of Public Safety kept us informed."



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Missing: A 2005 Nissan Xterra - model year pictured above - was stolen out of the Brown Building parking lot last Wednesday between 3:00 and 3:30 PM.

This Week at Mines

J. Thomas McKinnon, a Professor in CSM's Chemical Engineering Department, has co-authored a guest commentary in the Denver Post entitled "Our new energy economy." Visit denverpost.com and search "energy economy" to read more.

Local energy experts have hailed CSM, NREL, and CU as major attractions for technological businesses. The conversation sparked after Sun Microsystems announced a 432-acre purchase near Louisville.

The Colorado Senate has officially approved Vicki Cowart and James R. Spaanstra to the CSM Board of Trustees.

Climate change expert speaks at MACS colloquium

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

"What is the best guess for the future, given the observations of the past and the models we have?" is the question Reto Knutti of the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science at the ETH in Switzerland asked listeners at the MACS Colloquium on Feb. 1. Knutti, who was a leading author of the IPCC's Fourth Annual Report on Climate Change, spoke for about an hour about "Challenges in Quantifying Climate Model Bias, Dependence, and Performance." He discussed the ability to "trust the numerical models we have... that have been run for the IPCC report."

Knutti began his presentation by discussing how, in terms of short-term weather prediction, scientists are very good at making predictions. "We can predict the flow in the atmosphere, which is nice," he said while showing how scientists predicted Hurricane Katrina three days ahead of time. He balanced that, however, by talking about how predicting long-term climate is not as advanced of a science. "It is at least one million times the computational time" to be as accurate in the long-term as it is in the short.

Despite these limitations, however, the IPCC and other climate scientists use models to predict the future of climate change. Knutti spent the rest of his pre-

sentation describing why this is not necessarily a smart thing to do.

"In most cases, your estimate gets better and your uncertainty gets smaller as you add more models," Knutti said. "But you shouldn't get more and more confident by adding the same type of models... these models [which are of the same type] are not independent or distributed around the truth." With these words, he described a phenomenon which is uncommon in most disciplines. Generally, when models of a physical system are averaged together, they become closer to the actual reality. However, in climate science, the averaging of models together leaves certain inaccuracies in the overall model. These inaccuracies are consistent across the models, so they are left in the average. "You have not gained by averaging the models, because they contain the same errors."

An additional problem was described by Knutti. "The models that get the current climate well do not get the future climate trends, necessarily... there is no convergence in the future for the models that do well in the present." This problem creates more uncertainty in climate models.

In order to best know what the future will be, scientists must take these uncertainties into account. Knutti described a shift in thinking, which he thinks would be good: "we might have to think differently about how we define a good model."

Upgrades and expansion in store for MME Dept. microscopy lab

Jason Fish
Content Manager

Stereo vision goggles were passed around to all in attendance at Tuesday's Physics department colloquium. Looking through the red and green cellophane lenses, the crowd was faced with a three-dimensional image of a material sample at the microscopic level.

This interactive demonstration contributed to a presentation by Dr. Mike Kaufman, recently appointed head of the Electron Microscopy (EM) Laboratory in the Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (MME) department.

The colloquium focused on the capabilities of the lab's equipment and its potential uses in research by professors and graduate students.

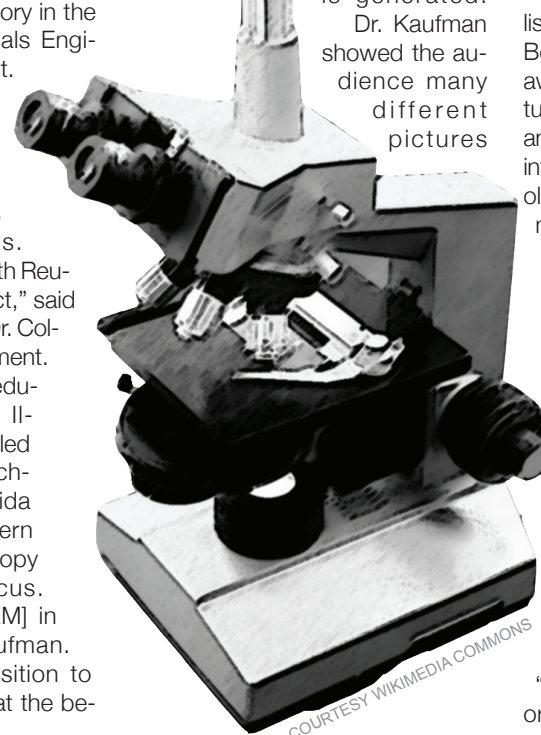
"We've already worked with Reuben on a nanotube project," said Dr. Kaufman, referring to Dr. Collins of the Physics department.

After completing his education at University of Illinois, Dr. Kaufman traveled across the country, teaching at University of Florida and University of Northern Texas. Electron Microscopy (EM) has been his focus. "I've done a lot with [EM] in the past," said Dr. Kaufman.

He accepted the position to lead the EM Laboratory at the be-

ginning of last semester. Since his arrival, he has worked to increase the quality of the lab and upgrade its facilities. "We're not really state-of-the-art. I'd really like to see improvement on this," said Dr. Kaufman.

Electron Microscopy bounces focused beams of charged electrons off of metals, ceramics, composites, geological samples, and some biomaterials. These scattered electrons are gathered in by a detector and an image of the sample is generated.



Dr. Kaufman showed the audience many different pictures

taken with EM machines, including the one that needed stereo glasses. The crystal grains of some ceramic pieces, different material phases, and even the individual atoms of a lattice structure can be seen with the lab's equipment.

The current EM Lab setup contains four microscopes, all with different uses and abilities. Some of this equipment is old and is scheduled to be replaced soon. "We'll be getting a scope from the National Renewable Energy Lab in the near future," said Dr. Kaufman.

Another machine on the wish list for the EM Lab is a Focused Ion Beam (FIB). It allows the user to cut away thin slices of a sample, capture an image of each new surface, and compile a video showing the full internal structure. "This tool has revolutionized this field," said Dr. Kaufman. "We need one at this school."

The possibility of a FIB coming to the EM Lab sparked interest in some of the crowd. "That will be huge for the development of fuel cells," said Jeremy Fields, a graduate student in Physics.

While undergraduate students in the MME department take an introductory course in Electron Microscopy, there are no advanced classes, nor any graduate programs in the field. "Students can't learn [Electron] Microscopy as easily these days," said Dr. Kaufman. "We'd like to see some courses or maybe short sessions soon."

Tomorrow's technology grows smaller by day

Nanotechnology is the next big step in scientific applications

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

Like biotechnology and computer science before it, nanotechnology is a developing science waiting to explode with numerous applications. Now CSM is doing research to turn this technology into a revolutionary reality.

Dr. Ryan Richards, an associate professor in the Chemistry department, has worked on nanoscale materials for many years before coming to Mines this past fall. On Jan 31st, he gave a presentation entitled Nanotechnology, catalysis, the environment, and alternative energy to summarize and inform the student body of what his research was all about.

Nanoparticles are particles that are on the scale of 10^{-9} meters or 1 nanometer. These particles have very different properties than particles on the atomic level or regular condensed matter consisting of millions of atoms. Gold is one example of this phenomenon. Regular macroscale gold is inert, but nano-gold is very active and works in reactions such as the oxidation of CO. It also has size dependent optical properties. This is displayed in an artifact called the Lycurgus cup, made in the 4th century AD, which is green, but looks red when illuminated from within.

Nobel Laureate Richard Smalley once described the need for nanotechnology by stating, "The energy challenge and global sustain-

ability will only be met through new materials created within the realms of chemistry, physics and engineering. This will not be accomplished by someone sequencing the human genome." This gives an idea about how practical and pertinent Richards's research is as it searches for solutions to real life problems.

One of the main benefits of nanotechnology research is in the area of catalysts. Catalysts and their products account for over 40% of the world's economy and Richards is exploring catalysts that would allow new reactions to be performed. When gold is on the nanoscale, it tries to recombine into a macroscale product quickly. Mesoporous silica SBA-15 is a catalyst that would prevent this recombination.

Richards explained this by saying, "The primary application for the mesoporous [molecules], the ones with a pore size of over 2 nanometers, is in catalysis because it is basically like putting a bunch of paper towel rolls together. You get strength, but you also have a very high surface area. Since all of the reactions are taking place at a sort of gas/solid interface, you increase the surface area dramatically by having these porous materials, but they also have a certain mechanical and thermal strength."

The nanogold ultimately allows

reactions that would put a single oxygen atom onto an alkane without resulting in combustion of the alkane. Richards' example for this process was to turn cyclohexane into cyclohexanol, and cyclohexanone. This process would allow for more ease in manufacturing chemicals.

Nanoparticles as catalysts could have a resounding effect on the medical field. There is a need right now in medicine for heterogeneous enantioselective catalysts, ones that could manufacture a one-handed side of the drug, but not the other. This is needed because most reactions produce a racemic mixture (a mixture of both right and left handed molecules). One hand might be a potent drug for AIDS, but the other might be toxic. These mixtures are extremely difficult to separate due to their same molecular weights and other physical properties so one of the best options is to not create one version of the molecule at all. It must also be possible to remove the catalyst from the drug. Richards described heterogeneous enantioselective catalysts as the "holy grail" for the pharmaceutical industry.

Richards described his current research on the heterogeneous enantioselective catalysts. "It will be a sort of reasonably intelligent trial and error. We have 4 ligands that we think should work and what we need

to do. We need to go through and put those on real working catalysts and see if they really do induce any enantioselectivity. We also need to do the spectroscopy to see how they sit on these [catalytic] surfaces and where the chiral center is and take that knowledge into the second generation [of the experiment]."

Richards is currently exploring this possibility with Cinchonidine, a naturally-occurring compound, on platinum. The nanotechnology might even have a basis in alternative energy by allowing the creation of a methanol economy or a greener biodiesel. Richards's research right now is with nanosheets of magnesium oxide. These blocks have up to 50% of their atoms on the surface, giving them very different properties as catalysts. The hope is that these nanosheets could be used to make a more energy efficient methanol forming process.

Richards explained, "It is known that you can take hydrogen and CO₂ and put them together to form methanol. The question is just how much pressure of hydrogen you have to put to make that happen. You can make it happen if you have 50 atmospheres of hydrogen or something ridiculous. The question is more can we do this in an energetically favorable manner. You can make more or less anything happen if you force it enough, but to have a sort of methanol economy or to be able to functionalize this CO₂ and

be able to do it economically and feasibly, you need it to be under a threshold where you are putting more energy in to get that high pressure than you are actually getting out in the chemical energy in your methanol. It is sort of like splitting water. You can split water if you pump enough electricity in there. The problem is the energy from the hydrogen that you are generating is much less than the energy that you actually put in to split the water. So to get that so that it is working in a favorable way is the real challenge."

This methanol, once acquired, could be used in hydrogen fuel cells. This would be the ideal solution because it would allow us to keep the current infrastructure for the new fuel rather than undertaking a massive, expensive conversion. This process could also be used to make biodiesel. The current technique to make this compound uses sodium hydroxide which corrodes a vehicle's engine. The method using methanol would make biodiesel much more viable.

Chris Kadigan, a metallurgy and materials science graduate student currently working with Richards, said he enjoyed his research because "[Richards] really emphasizes the importance of his research and doesn't really meddle with things that are unimportant in the world today. I think that's the coolest thing about his research, that it really is big time. It's things that are very applicable to major issues in the world."

"The nanotechnology might even have a basis in alternative energy..."

Panel of climate experts visits student ethics seminar

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

What about methane?

It is the second most important greenhouse gas being emitted because of human involvement, this is true. However, there is two-hundred times more carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere than methane. Also, sample data has shown that the levels of methane may have reached their peak.

How can you determine the age of the air samples found in Antarctica?

We use the layers formed per year to make a chronological timeline. Sometimes we can use carbon-dating techniques when they are of use.

Could anything other than humans be causing this?

We have run as many different simulations as can be thought of and the trend-line the Earth's temperature has been following since fossil fuels started being used fit within the hypothetical parameters of human involvement. The strongest evidence leans toward the burning of hydrocarbons.

How fast are we advancing into the new ice age?

It's impossible to tell because we haven't had records of such spikes in temperature or carbon dioxide. According to simulations, the average global temperature should increase by four degrees Celsius over the next hundred years. This, of course, means that we could have more and warmer hot spells and fewer and warmer cold spells.

What could be the climate

impacts?

All we can expect are the dry regions to become larger and maybe more rain and floods in the other regions. There is an idea of catastrophic change in weather that we just can't foresee. We must monitor the planet in anticipation of such events.

In the seventies, people were worried about going into another ice age. How do we know global warming isn't false?

After reviewing their scientific data, we concluded their information was correct. It was announced that we "might" go into an ice age if action isn't taken. This was taken well out of proportion and put the public into a panic when the data showed the planet was getting warmer.

What natural systems could have a feedback loop to respond to carbon dioxide emissions?

We could find a higher concentration of aerosol in the atmosphere. Because of increased water evaporation and possible increase in weather patterns, dust particles could become airborne and help reflect heat off the planet. This could result in more cloud cover for the planet.

Dr. Fogt and Dr. Barsugli were well prepared for their presentation. They did their homework and had the graphs to prove it. There appears to be strong evidence in favor of how real global warming can be. Whether or not it is as destructive as some might believe is inconclusive. Drs. Fogt and Barsugli will return to their work and maybe in the future they can show just how destructive it can be.

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Renewable energy through Colorado collaboration

Campus initiatives for Renewable Energy Collaboratory

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

Averaging over 300 days of sunshine, abundant in wind power, and ranked as the fourth greatest geothermal potential in the nation, Colorado has become an epicenter of renewable energy research and production. As such, Governor Bill Ritter's new energy economy has selected the Colorado School of Mines as a focal point.

Historically, CSM has been regarded as a national and world leader in the exploration and production of fossil fuels. Nearly every department on campus can display some involvement in the extraction and development of the world's current energy. In the past several decades, Mines has begun recruiting and pursuing researchers across multiple disciplines to find the next generation of energy resources.

In 2006, Colorado Senator Ken Salazar brought the leaders from the 3 major front range universities, CU, CSU, and CSM together with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), to form the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory. Announced formally in February, 2007, the Collaboratory has spurred new and continued research.

The Collaboratory seeks to develop and market renewable energy technology, attract new renewable energy companies, and help educate new scientists and engineers to become leaders in the renewable energy economy. The Colorado House and Senate and former Governor Bill Owens supported the passing of the necessary legislation, allowing the Collaboratory to seek funding from public and private sources.

"No doubt, the Collaboratory will have a significant impact on the research infrastructure and future industrial development for Colorado," said John Poate, Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer and member of the Collaboratory Executive Board.

Recently, Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard announced a \$984,000 allotment towards forming a Colorado Center for Sustainable Energy here at CSM. Continued grants from

major corporations and legislators, as well as CSM's proximity to federally funded NREL, are meant to attract renowned scientists to take part in renewable energy research.

The most innovative aspect of the Collaboratory allows specialists in various disciplines to work together from different institutions. An organized funding and management system allows innovation, whereas a single entity may not have enough expertise or capital. The involvement of private enterprise helps direct the Collaboratory's researchers towards the goal of rapid commercialization and maximum market impact. The Collaboratory's efforts have been divided among centers focused on a specific aspect of renewable energy.

Several Mines faculty members are currently involved in the Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels (C2B2) launched in July, 2007. "The benefits are so great and the opportunity so large that 'green' technologies are presently the number one area for venture capital investment," said John Dorgan of the Chemical Engineering department. Dorgan has been an important member of C2B2 and its efforts in conjunction with CU and CSU.

With the help of 27 private companies, C2B2 received 65 seed grant proposals from Collaboratory institutions. Companies traditionally not involved in renewable energy, such as ADM, Dow Chemical, Shell, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips, are now helping fund C2B2 research. Mines has been awarded funding for two projects, including one led by Dorgan, to develop bio-plastics from plant byproducts.

"We are working to make plastics and fuels in an economically sensible and environmentally conscientious manner," said Dorgan. The other awarded proposal is looking to analyze the science and economics behind a proposed thermo-chemical facility to convert cellulose into biofuels.

Several research centers are still in the planning phases for the relatively young Collaboratory.

Proposed projects focus on next generation solar, solar technology enhancement, and

wind power research.

The Center for Revolutionary Solar Photoconversion (CRSP), is a basic science research initiative looking at next generation solar power. Department of Energy/Basic Energy Sciences (DOE/BES) money is helping fund research into third generation photovoltaics, which cannot yet be marketed commercially and mass produced.

According to Craig Taylor, a professor in the Physics department at CSM, current research into photovoltaic projects varies from nanocrystalline to Cadmium telluride (CdTe) thin-film photovoltaic cells. Mines researchers, in collaboration with NREL, are focused primarily on efforts into silicon-based solar cells as the technology is well-studied, plentiful, and non-toxic.

Solar technology enhancement will be spearheaded by the proposed Solar Technology Acceleration Center (S-TAC). The focus of the projected research is to help bring near-commercial solar technology to the market, and help utilities and other entities develop existing solar infrastructure.

Wind power research, ranging from turbine design to atmospheric modeling will be conducted through the proposed Center for Research and Education in Wind (CREW). "It is under development and hopes to announce this spring," said Kathryn Johnson of the Engineering department. Proposed work through several CSM departments will focus on the control systems side of wind energy as well as various aspects of electrical transmission.

Future proposals look to explore education initiatives, carbon sequestration, and energy efficiency. "We are about to start a new center on energy efficiency," said Dag Nummedal, Director of the Colorado Energy Research Institute here at Mines, "and looking at [petroleum] reservoirs as storage sites for CO₂ and geothermal as a renewable source."

The Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory has many exciting projects and proposals for the near and distant future. "Mines now has the broadest portfolio of energy related research of any university at a time when energy and the environment are top global priorities," said Poate.

Make the most of Career Day

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

Career day is upon us once again, and the Career Center has some tips for students. Whether you are a graduating senior looking for a job, looking for a summer internship, or just want to see what's out there, the Career Center has the resources to help them.

"Career Day can be fun, interesting, [and] profitable," said Lin Sherman, Assistant Director

"Seeing so many prospective employers at one time is a good way to get a sense of corporate business."

of the Career Center. "Seeing so many prospective employers at one time is a good way to get a sense of corporate business, philosophy, culture and how you would fit (or not) into that scene with a particular company."

For students looking for a job or internship, "research is the most important thing," according to Sherman. "Look at the 'Who Wants My Major' section in the front of the Career Day Guide so that you can pick 10 or so companies... Then circle them on the map in the front of the guide so you have a 'game plan...' if you have researched your 'target' companies by going to their website ahead of time and also looking at the job descriptions they may have in DiggerNet right now, you will have more interesting conversation with them. You will both enjoy it more."

She further suggests going to the workshops which will occur this week. "Attend the workshops the week before Career Day... they will have lots of information and an attempt has been made to offer different timeframes to try to allow people to go to at least one or

two, no matter what their class/activities schedule looks like."

These workshops include Interview Skills and Strategies, Networking Your Way, First and Lasting Impressions, Working Internationally, and WIRED! Work, Interview/Resume Experience Day. The latter is an afternoon of resume and interview advice from real recruiters and students must sign

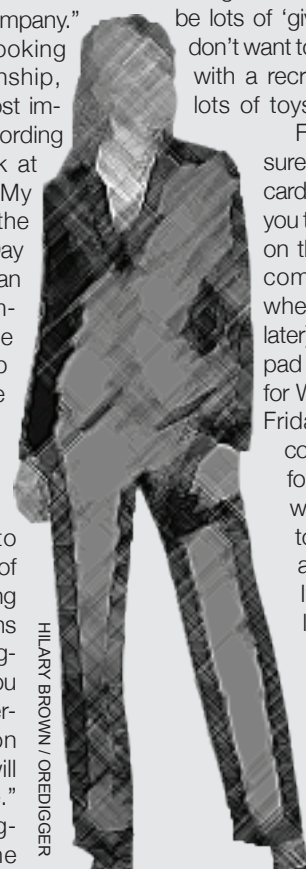
up for it on DiggerNet.

Sherman has advice for students once career day arrives

as well. "Be comfortably but nicely dressed, bring a dozen resumes (or more if you plan to talk to more employers than that), [and] maybe a semi-empty backpack or bag because there promise to be lots of 'give-aways' and you don't want to try to shake hands with a recruiter while holding lots of toys/pens/other loot."

Furthermore, "Be sure to get a business card from every recruiter you talk to (you can write on the back some little comment to mention when you email them later) and have a notepad with your schedule for Wednesday through Friday because some companies are staying for interviews and you will want to be able to perhaps schedule a time with them. If standing in line, listen to what the recruiter is saying to others so you can build on what you heard, rather than making them repeat the same things over."

Students should remember these resources when preparing for Career Day. A former Mines student who graduated in May said, "DiggerNet and the Career Center have been very helpful, I wish I would have started using it earlier."



HILARY BROWN / OREGON JOURNAL

TECH BREAK

... with Ian Littman

True to my word, here's how to get the music you want at the price you want without the stupid lawsuits you don't want: Ruckus.

You may or may not have heard about this online music service. It's available for, from what I gather, anyone with a .edu e-mail address, particularly students. You get access to over three million songs for as long as you're at school, and you don't have to pay anything. Oh, and it's perfectly legal.

The drawbacks? First off, there isn't as much selection on Ruckus as there is on iTunes. 3.2-plus mil-

lion songs may seem like a lot until you find out that iTunes has more than 6 million. Generally speaking the other for pay unlimited music guys have more tracks too. Napster (the new one, not the old one) has four million plus, for example.

Second, Ruckus files are protected by DRM, short for Digital Rights Management, the same stuff that makes Napster or Real Rhapsody files go poof when you stop paying for them. This means that your music is stuck on the computer you're using Ruckus on (though you can share music over

your network with other Ruckus users), and that computer has to be running Windows. Since Apple doesn't think you want to "rent" music, iPod/iTunes users need not apply, unless you want to crack the tracks. I'm not telling you how to do that.

You can, however, put the tracks on pretty much any new non-iPod device, specifically ones that say PlaysForSure on them (specifically ones that allow subscription

Free, legal, unlimited music

"You get access to over three million songs for as long as you're at school, and you don't have to pay anything."

music content) if you pay \$19.99 per term. Don't complain; if you've got a music-enabled cell phone besides the iPhone (Sprint's version of the Motorola Razr, for example)

it'll work, and honestly \$20 per term is a small price to pay for putting your music pretty much wherever, except

on your iPod. That \$20 is pretty much the price differential between other companies' PC-only plans (for which Ruckus is free) and their player-enabled subscrip-

tions, so it kind of makes sense for Ruckus to charge that much.

Third and last, the website navigation is dog-gone horrible. They have lots of ads so they can keep the service running too, worsening the navigation experience. But if you know what you're looking for you can get it pretty easily on Ruckus. Hint: find out what you want on iTunes, then search and download on Ruckus.

So there you have it. Music, whether it was meant to be or not, is free for the taking if your e-mail address ends in .edu, and these tracks are perfectly legal. Enjoy... and come back here again for the next column. Trust me, it's good.

Geek of the Week

...Mark Eberhart, Professor: Chemistry

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

Do you consider yourself a geek? Why or why not?

Absolutely not! I find that word to be derogatory, even dangerous, and urge the Oredigger to invent a new term to describe the scientifically and technologically literate—maybe “technorati” would suffice.

Originally, a geek was a carnival performer who swallowed live animals or their body parts. Why anybody would pay to watch the carnival geek kill a chicken by biting off and swallowing its head is beyond me, none-the-less, those were the first geeks. In most of today’s dictionaries the geek as a carnival performer is given as a second definition, the first is, “Somebody who is considered unattractive and socially awkward.” A third definition goes something like this, “Somebody who enjoys or takes pride in using computers or other technology.” The problem is that the first and third definitions have been convoluted, making the stereotypical geek someone who enjoys technology and is *necessarily* unattractive and socially awkward.

This stereotype is dangerous. It gives those who are technologically savvy an excuse to ignore their appearance, dress, and hygiene. I have seen senior members of the Mines faculty

show up to important meetings sporting jeans that don’t fit, untied snow boots, and a sloppy parka. In turn, this blatant disregard for social norms gives those who are not into science and technology a reason to ignore the opinions of those who are. Consider how CSM’s Board treats the faculty. If you want to know why scientists and engineers play, in comparison to politicians and economists, a minor role in directing this country’s future, look to the way we present ourselves to the public.

When did you form your opinions about the word geek?

I first came to the realization that the term was objectionable during a national radio interview. I was trying to make the point that there were basic scientific concepts that constituted essential knowledge for everyone. The interviewer diminished the suggestion by branding me a geek.

So are you a “technorati”? And if so, when did you first realize you were?

In retrospect, it would have been clear to most people that I was obsessive about science at the age of six. One of my favorite activities was to memorize tables in the back of science books. I would sit for hours in the 500 section of the library thumbing through books in the hunt for tables. If you wanted to know the size of any planet in the solar system, or the atomic number of

any main group element, I was your go-to guy.

Who inspires you? Do you consider them geeks or not? If not, why?

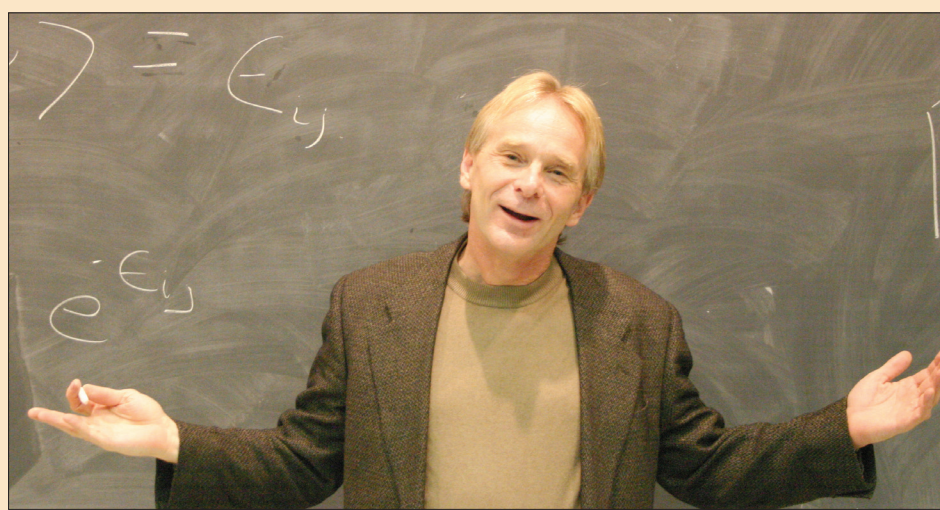
People who are able to bring about change inspire me. Very often, these people had to overcome tremendous resistance. Pauling, Feynman, Boltzmann all had to bear years of confrontation before their ideas became mainstream. It was passion and self-confidence that allowed them to sustain the fight.

Feynman was certainly a geek, in the sense that he was obsessive about science and technology and unconcerned about how other perceived him. In fact, his book, *Surely You’re Joking Mr. Feynman*, might serve as the geek bible. I also admire Neil deGrasse Tyson, the director of the Hayden Planetarium. He is most certainly not a geek and is a great spokesperson for science and technology.

What is your favorite pastime?

I love road biking, particularly long climbs. For me there is nothing more relaxing than a climb to the top of Mt. Evans on a hot summer day.

What is the geekiest thing



COURTESY MARK EBERHART

Who said I’m a Geek? Eberhart is leading the fight against “geek” stereotyping.

you own?

My office computer system. It has three high-def monitors (two 17” and a 25”) sitting side by side. It is just the coolest. It is a little outdated now, and I am trying to figure out how to accommodate four 30” monitors in the next update.

As a professor, what one quality do you admire most in students?

Scientific passion. This is the trait that gets beat[en] out of us. As I mentioned, those that inspire me are able to hold onto their passion.

Similarly, what student attribute frustrates you most?

Preoccupation with grades. The questions: “Will this be on the exam?” or “What do I need to get an A?” indicate a lack of passion. Imagine someone who loves a sport; e.g. basketball, saying to the coach, “Will I have to shoot lay-ups in the game?” Those questions drive me up the wall.

What is your geekiest accomplishment?

What is your geekiest accomplishment?

It is not yet an accomplishment. It was, and then it wasn’t, and now it is close to being an accomplishment again. I taught my computer to sing the *Element Song* - the names of the chemical elements set to the tune of the Major General’s song from Gilbert and Sullivan’s comic opera *The Pirates of Penzance*. Tom Lehrer created the song in the 1950’s. He was a Harvard mathematician who performed witty songs at local nightclubs (<http://www.privatehand.com/flash/elements.html>). Years ago, I programmed my computer to sing the *Element Song*, then an OS change made the program obsolete. So, I have taken up the task again, and hope, if time permits, to have it done by spring.

(And because we have to ask) Windows or Mac?

Try programming a Windows computer to sing! Mac - of course

Green Tip of the Week

Natalie Wagner
Guest Columnist

This week, we’ll revisit Moisture. Here are some more ideas to help you, your skin, and whatever is left of any plants in your living space, feel just a little less like the Gobi:

Conserve water:

Share the Shower: Water conservation in a semi-arid state like Colorado is really the only way to live morally. In order to maximize the benefits, I highly suggest showering with somebody. Roommates, significant others, pets, neighbors, relatives, and random people that you met at the bar make excellent shower companions. This is a good way to convince your smelly hippie friends to occasionally bathe. Share the water, save the heat, and get clean and happy in the process (<http://cwcb.state.co.us/>!)

Wash for a week: If and when you do finally get around to doing laundry. Try to get as much as physically possible into the machine. Washers are more efficient and conserve both energy and water when they are run with larger loads (<http://tva.apogee.net/res/relwovr.asp>).

Get organic:

Are you a conscientious, liberally minded, educated person who is committed to saving the environment but are too lazy to keep the fridge full of any thing other than liquor and condiments? Well, I have a solution for you: Door-to-door Organics. Check out (<https://denver.doortodoororganics.com/boxes.php#>), look at the selection, pick a size, have your card ready for the small fee, and look forward to fresh organic fruits and veggies delivered to your door every Wednesday.

Compost:

Pretty much everything is compostable (<http://www.epa.gov/compost>), and you should really try it out. It is a well-known fact that composting makes you physically more attractive to the opposite sex. In some countries, composters are revered as demigods (not verifiable at this moment). By the way, composting has historically been around since the forbidden apple was discarded after only one bite was taken out of it, then God composted it. In fact, in some creation myths, the snake was only trying to convince Adam to throw the apple away, as opposed to composting it.

Fun, snow, Qdoba, Coors

Conditions good for Winter Carnival at Eldora

Lily Giddings
Content Manager

Saturday, February 02, 2008 was the annual Colorado School of Mines Winter Carnival celebration at Eldora Mountain Resort. The day was perfect for skiing and snowboarding, chilly but sunny in the morning, turning to light snow in the afternoon.

The weather was in direct contrast with last year, which was so bad that many bus routes were closed, delaying the arrival and departure of the chartered buses. Also, last year there were very few lifts open due to extreme weather. Another difference from previous years is that this year there were no extra activities planned for the day, such as sledding, snowman

building contests and human bowling. According to Kristin Evanyo, “There was not enough participation to keep them going. And there was too much liability for Eldora.”

The resort was busy; the Mines Activity Council was able to sell 580 tickets. 540 tickets went to students, while the rest were sold to the faculty and their families. In addition to a good portion of the Mines population there were a great number of families, especially ski school students. According to Andrea Yocom, the best part of the day was “all the cute little kids in ski school. I saw some of them crying on the slope.”

Tickets were sold in the student center for twenty dollars, which covered the cost of transportation, a lift ticket, free hot chocolate all day, lunch, admission to the after party, and a fleece blanket. Furthermore, ticket holders



LILY GIDDINGS / OREDIGGER

Come and get it: Students line up for lunch during the Annual Winter Carnival last weekend at Eldora Mountain Resort.

were given a rental discount at Christy Sports and a discount from the Outdoor Recreation Center for a tune up and wax.

So how is MAC able to pay for all this splendor? In addition to the proceeds from the tickets purchased, Eldora makes a good deal for large groups, and ASCSM provides the balance due. Furthermore, Winter Carnival is sponsored by many businesses, such as Qdoba and Coors.

Students met at the intramural fields to board chartered buses supplied by the Mines Activity Council, and were taken straight to the Eldora ski lodge. Students enjoyed the beautiful weather on the available slopes for several hours and were then able to get lunch in the wing designated for the CSM Winter Carnival. After lunch, when the weather began to cool down, students began to gather in the same wing to warm up, play card games and talk.

Many students, including Marilou Canon, took the opportunity afforded by Winter Carnival to try a new sport. “Today was awesome, it was the first time I tried snowboarding, and I didn’t fall down too much,” commented Canon. Amanda Prebarich put it simply, “It was just awesome.”

The after party, sponsored and catered by Qdoba, started at 4 p.m. Students not in a hurry to get back to campus were able to enjoy tacos and tortilla chips, while students over the age of 21 were offered free beer, donated by Coors brewery.

Stay tuned for more tips next week on how to Reduce and Reuse!

Aimless All-Star games | Once enjoyable showcases have lost their way

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

It is that time of the year when most All Star Games are being held and the big question is: why? While the basic idea of a game full of a sports' biggest stars sounds like a grand idea, it rarely has a grand payoff.

In most cases, the games themselves are dull and pointless. Defense is rarely played and players are more interested in showboating than actually playing the game themselves. For the NBA, it is more a time for players to show off their dunks and tricks rather than play an actual game. It's a scrimmage more than a contest. And the selection process is flawed. Fans get to vote for their favorite players, which is fine, but the selections often turn into a lifetime achievement award rather than a celebration of the best players from that particular season. Vince Carter from the NBA, in particular, has been the recipient of some undeserved selections in recent years. The voting system has also lent itself to some chicanery. Rory Fitzpatrick, a journeyman defenseman formerly of the Vancouver Canucks, was well liked amongst teammates and fans, but he wasn't necessarily the most talented of players. Last year, in fact, he scored a mere 7 points and wasn't even a starter on his own team. Nevertheless, in 2007, he received over half a million votes due to an internet campaign and nearly became a starter on the All Star team.

A bigger problem, though, is how many deserving stars opt out of playing in these games. Many claim that they need time to rest their injuries or spend time with their families. At the most recent NHL All Star game back on January 27th, the top 2 goalies in the league, Roberto Luongo and Martin Brodeur, opted not to play. While the time off might be beneficial to them, fans still see it as a cop-out. The NFL's Pro Bowl is worse. Since it comes after the season, there is no need the rest injuries for the next game because there is no next game. Nevertheless, some players are concerned about injuring themselves in a meaningless game, so true superstars like Brett Favre will not be going to Hawaii for the February 10th game.

Major League Baseball attempted to make their game meaningful, but they went a little too far. On the line for their summer classic is home field advantage for the World Series. So far, this move has not backfired, but this game could have too much impact on the biggest series of the year. Imagine a wild card team having home field advantage over the team with the best record in a given season solely because the wild card team's league was better. Some might argue that the wild card team had to struggle more in a superior league, but that still doesn't change the fact that a single All Star game can render the results of an entire regular season meaningless.

The highlight of most All Star breaks has not been the games, but rather the skills competitions. These skills competitions showcased the most exciting plays of each game: the Home Run Derby for baseball and the Slam Dunk Contest for basketball for example. But these competitions have seen better times. To get players to participate in these showcases is like pulling teeth nowadays, depriving fans from seeing their favorites do what they do best. The Home Run Derby in the 1990s used to be packed full of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosas and Ken Griffey Juniors and fans would ooh and aah at every 500 foot long homer hit. But now, in these days of steroid witch-hunts, some of the big names opt out of the Derby for little to no good reason. Great home run hitters like Alex Rodriguez, Travis Hafner, and Adam Dunn opt not to participate, and it hurts the exhibition. In their stead, fans get players like Alex Rios or Troy Glaus. They are great hitters in their own right, but not some of the best home run hitters of the current generation.

The NBA Slam Dunk contest has lost more steam, however. It started back in 1976, the last season of the ABA, before the league merged with the NBA, with names like David "Skywalker" Thompson and "Dr. J" Julius Erving participating. Dr. J won it with a famous dunk from the free throw line that Michael Jordan would replicate 10 years later to launch himself into superstardom. Michael Jordan's dunk contests with Dominique Wilkins back in the 1980's are still jawdropping with both stars continually trying to one-up the other. But the contests now don't have the same sizzle, or even any stars. This year's dunk contest will consist of Dwight Howard, Rudy Gay, Jamario Moon, and Gerald Green. Only one of those men, Howard, is destined for stardom. Meanwhile, the true stars of the league like LeBron James,

Carmelo Anthony, Kobe Bryant, Dwayne Wade, and Kevin Garnett will sit back idly and watch the contest become a shell of its former self. Contestants, like Nate Robinson and Chris "The Birdman" Anderson in 2005, have also taken over a dozen attempts to complete a single dunk and it just turned the contest into boredom. The dunk contest needs fixing.

The NHL, at least, seems to be on the right track with its skills competition. Entertaining contests determine which player is the most accurate, powerful, or speedy. The competition also included, for the first year, the Breakaway Challenge where players attempt to score creative shootout goals. Washington Capitals F. Alexander Ovechkin stood out of the crowd by knocking the puck into the air and swinging at it like a baseball player in one of his attempts. The move got rave reviews from the crowd and the judges, but there was still one small problem: he missed.

In defense of All Star Games, there is occasionally a moment of significance within them. Take the

2003 MLB All Star Game for example. It was the first All Star Game with home field advantage on the line after the 2002 All Star disaster. The game was 6-4 in the favor of the NL in the bottom of the 8th, but unstoppable reliever Eric Gagne was on the mound to close the game out for the NL. Gagne had not blown a save all season and would continue to do so until 2004, racking up 84 consecutive saves. 2003 would also be the year Gagne won the prestigious Cy Young Award. But on the night of that All Star game, Gagne gave up 3 runs, including the game winning home run to Texas 3B Hank Blalock. So Gagne did blow a save that season, even if it was only in exhibition.

In most cases, however, these sports leagues need to revise their All Star festivities. They are broken and meaningless in their current iterations. There once was a time when these were fun, but in this era where the main priority in sports is what is good for the business rather than what is fun, All Star games are just not working as intended.





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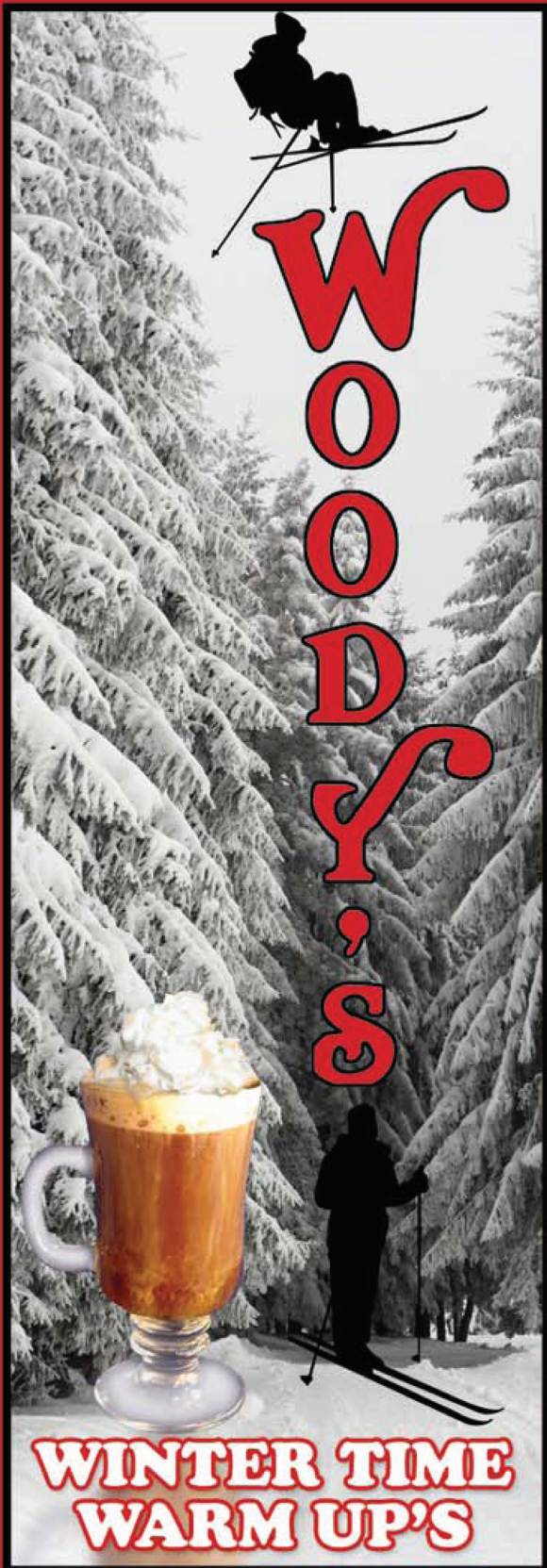
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COOKING CORNER

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Serves: 4-6
Time: 30 minutes

- 1 16 oz package of rotini or large shell pasta
- 1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can of chunk light tuna
- 1 or 2 cups of frozen peas

Prepare the pasta according to package directions. Drain. Add cream of mushroom and tuna. Mix well. Microwave the peas until warm. Add to the pasta mixture and combine. Place on low heat (the mixture will be a little cold), and stir until warm.

Serve with crumbled potato chips on top. Enjoy!

- SARA POST



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

Chris Walla's *Field Manual*

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

Now that January has come and gone, the music industry is willing to release new albums, and for fans of Death Cab For Cutie, Chris Walla's *Field Manual* is a must have. Walla currently plays guitar for Death Cab For Cutie, and has recorded and produced records with The Decemberists, Nada Surf, and Hot Hot Heat. The story behind the release of this album actually started last year when the laptop that contained the mastered tracks was seized by Homeland Security as Walla was crossing through the Canadian border. Apparently this confiscation was a mistake and he got his computer back

soon after. As for the music itself, don't be surprised to hear the ghosts of old Death Cab For Cutie albums show up on this disc.

The album begins with "Two-Fifty," a mix of reverb laden vocals and computer sampled beats. This stands as a contrast to the pop melodies that drive "The Score" and *Field Manual*'s first single "Sing Again." Walla, a current Portland resident, asks "Colorado are you listening? Do you hear me? Do you even care?" on "A Bird Is A Song," a softer, stripped down tune. "Geometry & C" begins with an intro that almost sounds like "Crooked Teeth" from Death Cab For Cutie's 2005 album *Plans*, but is distinctly a Walla original. Through the middle of the album Walla sticks to his pop-indie sound until "It's Unsustainable," which once again sounds like a b-side to *Plans*. Finally, "Holes" closes

the album simply yet beautifully.

As far as lyrics go, Chris Walla is definitely not standing in Ben Gib-

bard's, or anyone else's, shadow. "Sing Again" is just catchy, yet so simple, but still manages to speak to human resolve with these lyrics: "Here's to poison, you will hear the noises, you will fear the breaking, it's all yours for the taking." Walla's questions about Colorado listening and caring really hit home, especially for residents of the Centennial State, because he poses his question in a poetic way.

Taken all together, *Field Manual* is a breath of fresh air for a year that hasn't heard much in the area of decent new music releases. Chris Walla is innovative, yet still true to the sounds he has developed through years of playing and producing.

Musical inspiration at Concert in the Library

David Sommer
Staff Writer

"We all like music, and we wanted to play together," said Kathleen Martin, program assistant in the Business and Economics department. On Friday afternoon, Feb. 1, Martin and two of her colleagues, Professor John Cuddington and Assistant Professor Daniel Kaffine, assembled in the Boettcher Room of the Arthur Lakes Library to share some of their musical inspiration.

Playing before a small crowd of

faculty and students, the EB Trio, as they chose to be called, began their concert with a few opening remarks: "This is our first public performance. What you'll soon find out is that our music is very eclectic. We've chosen pieces through at least half a millenia, ranging from traditional Celtic to standard Jazz to some modern rock."

The ensemble, composed of Martin on the Celtic Harp, Cuddington on the Jazz guitar, and Kaffine on the acoustic guitar, opened with an old Celtic instrumental from the

1600's called "Fanny Power." The crisp and lucid chords soon began to resonate throughout the room. They continued with a Celtic drinking song called "The Foggy Dew," followed rapidly by a Beatles classic, "Norwegian Wood." At the suggestion of Kaffine, the group brought their performance into the most recent decade, playing acoustic pieces from Modest Mouse and The Arcade Fire.

They concluded with a couple Jazz standards, including "All of Me" and "When You're Smiling."

Later, when asked about their amount of preparation, Cuddington smiled and said, "We practiced for a couple weeks, maybe three or four times. We just kind of threw it together." Cuddington had been playing guitar since his childhood and had been a part of several jazz bands since then. Kaffine started playing the acoustic guitar five years ago, teaching himself and developing his skills independently. "This is my

first time to play in public," he said later. Martin said she chose the Celtic Harp fifteen years ago because "everything sounds good on it."

The concert ended with applause from and

brief conversations with the audience. Whether they will perform another in the future is yet to be decided. "It depends if people want us to come back, but we'd love to do it."



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

Eclectic Taste: Last Friday's ensemble played everything from traditional Celtic instrumentals, to the Beatles, to Modest Mouse.

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Fool's Gold

“Pats still true to my heart”



Scooter Guy Stallone to Play Mr. Smith Jimmie Stewart Rolls Over in Grave

Taylor Embury
Innocent Bystander

Not long after the last snowfall, I was walking on the sidewalk between the Rec. Center and the Brown Building on my way to class. I noticed a very loud and obnoxious grating noise behind me that was getting closer. It was a scooter... er. As he got closer, it occurred to me that this wasn't the best time to be riding your Razor. With all the ice and hard packed snow, even riding a bike appeared hazardous. But "Scooter Guy" wasn't about to let the elements stand in his way. Scooting isn't much more efficient than walking, so he definitely wasn't doing it for the sake of practicality. I think he was just an honest scooter enthusiast. One of life's highlights for scooter enthusiasts is jumping curbs. So, as he approached the big pointless paved circle in front of the Rec. Center, a golden opportunity arose. This was an excellent curb. Plus, though he may not have known it

at the time, the landing strip was a patch of hard packed snow which I believe God himself placed there. Scooter Guy jumped the curb. Scooter Guy's front wheel stuck on the landing. Scooter Guy went flying. Poor Scooter Guy. He must have slid a good 3 meters. The surrounding onlookers let out a collective, "Oooooo" of sympathy for Scooter Guy who had just ruined his pants (at least for the day). Despite all this, Scooter Guy didn't miss a beat. He just hopped up, took the scooter without a thank you (since I got it for him), and continued on his obnoxiously loud and impractical way. That's why, not two seconds after he left, I exchanged enthusiastic fist pumps and a "Yes!!" with a girl who had also witnessed the embarrassing fall. This reveling in another's embarrassment may sound mean, but I'm not here to discuss social psychology. I'm here to tell you a guy on a scooter wiped out big-time. Now give the person next to you a high five.

Tim Weilert
Cemetery Loiterer

In light of recent slew of sequel and remade versions of classic films, such as Rocky Balboa and Rambo, Sylvester Stallone has decided to branch out of his own series and into classics of American cinema. "Uh yeah, I just felt like I was being typecast as myself from 30 years ago, so uh, I wanted to do some other things," said Stallone during a press conference this past weekend during the Super Bowl Halftime Show. Stallone will be starring in a remake of Mr. Smith Goes To Washington. James "Jimmy" Stewart played the role of Mr. Smith in the original 1939 version of the film. Audible

thuds were heard at Stewart's grave site in Glendale, California during the press conference. On-lookers claimed to have heard the same sort of sound when another Stewart film, The Flight Of The Phoenix, was remade in 2004. "Well, it sorta sounds like he's rolling around down there," explained Tom Pearsons, a Glendale resident and self proclaimed Jimmy Stewart know-it-all. As a way to ready himself for the role once played by Stewart, Stallone watched *It's A Wonderful Life*. "Uh, I only fell asleep a couple times, uh they just didn't kill enough people in that movie. I, uh, hope that this Mr. Smith movie is more betterer." Other actors cast

include Jim Belushi, who will play crooked political boss Jim Taylor, and Angelina Jolie, who was offered the role of Clarissa Saunders, Smith's wise-cracking secretary. "The new version of the film will appeal to a younger, less law-abiding crowd," according to an official press release. Specific details have not been made public yet, but experienced movie critics are only predicting success for Stallone's third remake in less than a year. Stallone got the idea for a remake of Mr. Smith Goes To Washington after watching the episode of The Simpsons where Mel Gibson attempted a similar feat. "Uh, yeah, I'm gonna do a better job than Mel, just 'cause y'know Rocky could totally beat Mad Max down in a boxing fight." The film has already made the American Film Institute's list of "100 of The Greatest Remakes That Have Yet To Be Made."

Fool's Poetry Sideline

Furry rabid beasts
Hit one with my car today
No more fluffy pest
Tim Weilert

In my mind the sky is blue.
In my mind, I write for you.
In my mind our love is right.
I love you car - good night.
Mike Stone

The Oredigger writes,
I have no Sunday nights.
The school gives homework,
It is a big jerk.
Mike Stone

Roses are red, violets are blue,
Haven't slept in 2 weeks,
Thanks to Mountain Dew
Tim Weilert

Slate Café years back
I lost a freshman fifteen
Beware the crawfish
Matthew Pusard

Stone Cold Sober

Replace the letters to find a secret message! -Super Smash Brothers Cryptogram...
Hint: W=S

YFSJ JIUD KL USGJW TK CSPAK SGT EMANA YDSP? TDGAC, TDGAC, TDGAC.

The Colorado School of Mines digs Fool's Gold!
Issue 15's Answer:

President Bush Steps Down Early

Matthew Pusard
Political Analyst

Just minutes after his final State of the Union speech, President George W. Bush mistakenly vacated the presidency, thinking that his term was over. Due to his low approval ratings, no one really bothered to explain to Bush that he had another full year left. White House Press Secretary Dana Perino explained Bush's actions. "George knew that he was elected in 2000 and it was now 2008 so he thought he had served his full 8 years and he stepped down. I guess that's what a Yale education gets you these days."

Due to even lower approval ratings, some citizens are trying to trick Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi into doing the same thing. In Bush's place, Vice President Dick Cheney was sworn into office on Tuesday and immediately changed the title of "President" to "Emperor" as an homage to his mentor, the emperor from that Star Wars movie. Cheney is also threatening to veto any legislation that comes to the White House for approval unless his own agenda is passed by congress. The first item on that agenda is the legalization of post-natal abortion up to the age of 85. Sources

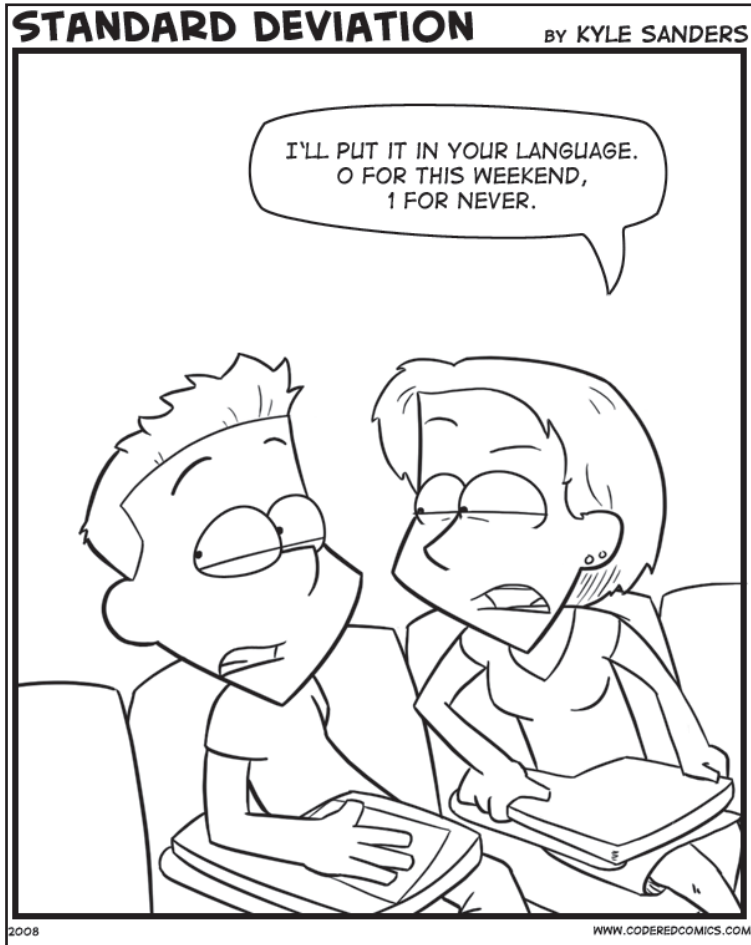
close to Cheney say he will try to go after John Kerry with a shotgun, but recent tests have revealed that Kerry is already dead and has been for the past 15 years. As emperor, Cheney is demanding a heart healthy dinner every night of a fresh newborn baby with a side of clubbed seal. He takes his meal with a nice full glass of "blood of an Englishman." Dietitians have explained that this new diet will ensure that Cheney's bionic heart will last another 40-50 years. The new commander in chief has also ordered troops to invade Estonia to prevent the country from making Weapons of Mass Annoy-

ance (such as the Athlete's Foot Bomb or the powdered essence of boy bands which could be sent in the mail). Intelligence has not reported any suspicious activity in Estonia, but Cheney elaborated that "America cannot take the chance that Estonia could possibly someday become a threat to our very way of life." He then told reporters to go do something that is very anatomically impossible. Next week, troops are headed towards France which, at least, we can all agree is a good thing. Mines will celebrate Dick Chen-E Days on April 3rd through 5th in honor of our new and glorious leader.

Super Bowl Commercial

Stats

TV Shows: 13
Internet sites: 11
Cars: 10
Drinks: 8
Movies: 7
Beer: 6
Food: 5
Sports: 4
Clothing: 2
Computers: 1
Top 3: Tide-to-go Pen, Fedex, Diet Pepsi Max
For more:
myspace.com/superbowlads



A criminal problem US legal system fails inmates, taxpayers

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Editor

Here in Colorado, lives have been thrown away in the name of justice. Good lives, promising lives, young lives. As recent as 2006, one mistake, being in the wrong place, making a wrong decision, even for a minor, could have landed you in a Colorado prison, serving a life term without possibility for parole. That problem has been fixed, thanks to an act by the Colorado legislature prohibiting life sentences for future juvenile offenders, but what about those already in jail? Who is helping them? And how do we fix further problems affecting the criminal justice system?

Tim Masters was released from prison on the basis of DNA evidence on January 25, after more than nine years in prison. He was convicted on murder charges in 1999, but "prosecutorial misdeeds" helped his defense team get his conviction overturned.

When the crime occurred in 1987, Masters was just 17. The evidence tying Masters to the murder? He lived near the field where the body was found, and he had drawn violent pictures.

In Masters' case, physical evidence was lacking. In other words, there was none. But the jury convicted him based on his drawings, and probably based at least in part to the fact that he was a "irresponsible teenager." Circumstantial evidence regarded as proof is one of the major flaws existing in our justice system.

Overzealous prosecutors, desperate to solve a case by any means necessary, overlook weaknesses in cases. The case of Tim Masters was underscored by the destroying of evidence. If evidence is destroyed, how can the innocent exonerate themselves?

Finding justice is an incredibly important task, but it's not just about convicting someone. It is about honesty. It is about knowing that all is for nought if the innocent are imprisoned.

This is about whether or not we care about the lives of all of our citizens, particularly the ones that are perceived dangerous because of age.

Of course, not all cases are like Masters'. Most of the wrongly convicted will spend the rest of their lives in jail. And why? I'm sure all of their crimes were significant. But I don't care what those crimes were.

All offenders, especially those who committed their crimes as teenagers, deserve a chance at rehabilitation. Instead, we throw away lives, some before they have a chance to start. How can there be no recourse, especially for those under the age of 18?

Forty-six inmates serving a sentence of life without possibility of parole in a Colorado prison committed their crime while under the age of 18, according to Human Rights Watch.

"An estimated 2,225 youth offenders are serving life without parole sentences in the United States. It is time to stop throwing young lives away."

But this is not just a Colorado problem.

The United States is the only nation in the Western world to sentence minors to life in prison without parole. An estimated 2,225 youth offenders are serving life without parole sentences in the United States. It is time to stop throwing young lives away.

According to Human Rights Watch studies, most youth offenders serving life without parole in the United States were first-time offenders, many of which did not commit a violent crime.

Unfortunately, the life sentences handed out to minors are indicative of the problems in the system. For many of the convicted, there is no recourse. The parole system frees some and ignores others. It is not fair to convict and forget.

I believe in personal responsibility. I believe that people should be held fully accountable for their actions. But I also am a strong believer in individual rights, rights that are violated far too often in the United States criminal justice system.

The United States is considered

to have the most forward-thinking justice system in the world, having pioneered "innocent until proven guilty." But that system is broken. Even when tried by juries of their peers, suspected criminals are convicted when the case against them is not sufficient. Many of those convicted are, in fact, innocent.

It costs tens of thousands of dollars every year to incarcerate each inmate in the prison system. That money comes from taxpayers, but it doesn't really go anywhere. That money is not being used effectively to rehabilitate prisoners and keep prison populations down. The same money has no chance of going back into the economy and helping our businesses. It just goes down the drain.

According to a 1994 study by the Department of Justice, 67% of inmates who were released were back in prison within 3 years.

Statistics from the Colorado Department of Corrections show recent recidivism rates as high as 50%. I refuse to think that this is just the problem of the criminal. It is also the problem of those incarcerating them. More must be done to emphasize rehabilitation.

The case of Timothy Masters only highlights the problem. Many, many prisoners across the country are like Masters, but they are without the media coverage. They are without the legal team to work tirelessly to prove their innocence. Even so, they are just as innocent as he is. The legal system has failed them.

I recognize how difficult the job of the policeman, the prosecutor, and the prison supervisor must be. The agony of not finding justice is great. Going through red tape, following regulation, is likely frustrating, especially when those you are chasing obey no rules. But our citizens deserve more.

I'm sure our legal system sees ugliness every day. It matters not. We should know better than to deny forgiveness to those who have paid their debt to society. We should know better than to deny prisoners the rehabilitation that they deserve. Humans make mistakes. Denying that fact doesn't do any good.

US hurting abroad Global policy damages interests

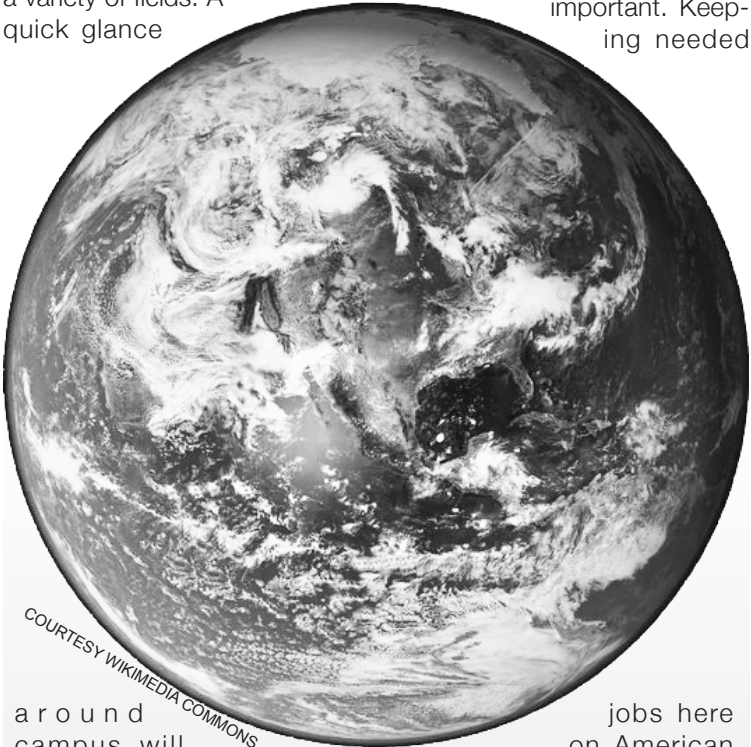
Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

The United States has been and will continue to be a guiding light of freedom for other countries to follow. Recent imposition and overstepping by our dear federal government into civil liberties and our nation's wallets has not completely destroyed our standing as the dominant world leader.

Other nations around the globe with oppressive leadership, which has stripped its citizens of far more dignity and liberty than our own, serve as a reminder that all is not lost. Students continue to flock to the United States to gain world-class educations in a variety of fields. A quick glance

the globe. Instead of pouring money towards propping puppet governments, and funding other nations' militaries, the United States should focus homeward to fix its foreign policy. Not overstepping our bounds by placing imperialist military bases in far-flung corners of the earth under the auspice of "national security" is a start. We do not need an expansionist over-funded military sending our soldiers across the globe when domestic terrorism and more pressing domestic issues requiring funding are of greater precedent.

Focusing on creating a thriving domestic economy, which educates the BEST and brightest students in the world is important. Keeping needed



around campus will certainly yield the obvious diversity of nationalities who proudly call CSM their place of learning. Across the country the "melting pot" that is America continues to add new faces to the mix. Whether certain illegal members of our society should be here is another debate. The fact remains that people continue to have an overwhelming desire to be a part of the US.

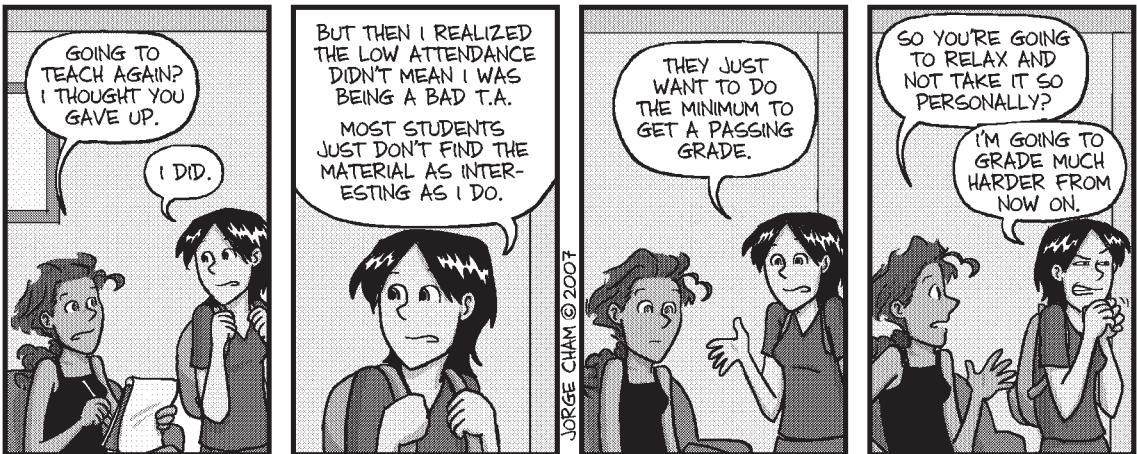
Reports and studies continually surface pointing to our failing schools, failing healthcare, and crumbling infrastructure. While valid arguments all, these statements are relatively moot compared to some countries. Domestically, the US does a good job as you don't see a huge flux of citizens leaving the country.

However, the US faces critical junctures in its near future with regards to its role within

jobs here on American soil and rewarding the toil and efforts of small companies and individuals who are succeeding is important. Providing tax loopholes (Enron) and condoning the drive to shift American companies (Halliburton) overseas is wrong. Bailing out corporations (Ford) and providing unfair mega-business subsidies (corporate farming) is wrong. Allowing paper money to be printed at the whim of the Reserve devalues the US dollar and hurts our ability to compete in a global market. Hosting a greater than \$700 billion dollar trade deficit with nearly 26% to China is bad foreign policy.

The choice is simple, by reinvigorating our own nation and ensuring other countries continue to turn to us as the leaders in all fields is the key to sound foreign policy.

"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham - www.phdcomics.com



Engineering civics

Career and politics clash in an election year

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

College is a wonderful time to meet new people, learn new skills, and develop personal identity. It is no wonder that the modern college campus has become a hotbed for politics, debate, and occasionally protest (e.g. "Don't tase me bro!").

On some campuses, associating with a particular political party may dictate what kind of person you are, who you hang out with, and who you vote for. Mines, when compared to other state schools, does not appear to be a "political" campus, and this is not a bad thing.

When I applied to CSM I had hopes of doing math and science for the rest of my happy days. I did not want anything to do with writing (oh the irony!) or politics. 2008 being an election year has only added to the bitter taste still left in my mouth from 2006's heated congressional shake-up.

Just when everyone thought it was safe to turn on the television again, it's time for more campaign commercials and endless coverage. "...Obama up 0.00023% in the most recent polls... Huckabee endorsed by Norris... Hillary enlists Big Head Todd!... Read my lips, NO new television shows... Colbert up 12 points... etc." Satire aside, America is quickly becoming a nation obsessed with the hype that surrounds

politics. What is an engineer to do?

One of the best ways to regain perspective on a situation involving large amounts of sensationalized information is to get back to the basics. The Fundamental Canons of Engineering Ethics begin with the ideas of integrity, honor, dignity, and public service. At no point is there any direct mention of politics.

Also, engineers are urged to perform only in their area of expertise, and since Mines has no political science, law, or history major programs, most students lack experience in the political realm (please note that there have been Mines graduates who have gone on to become successful in the aforementioned fields).

The obvious manifestation of these factors can be seen in the apolitical lifestyles of many Mines students. To a certain extent this can be viewed as acceptable.

In order to function as a good public servant, an engineer should be connected with people. This can oftentimes be amidst political tension and debate. In my opinion, an engineer who is legitimately concerned with public safety will be aware of such political situations, but will not allow them to dictate the appropriate course of action.

On a practical level, the late Fred Cuny comes to mind as an engineer who exemplified what I am trying to express. From the 1970's until the mid 1990's, Cuny worked for the betterment of living

standards in radically tense and political situations. He did not allow politics to keep him from helping in Biafra, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia.

In fact he usually turned politics upside down to ensure basic human rights, oftentimes going into areas where the U.N. was unable due to political red tape and endless debate.

He had several successful and gutsy engineering projects in high risk areas (at one point, he built a water purification system for Sarajevo inside an abandoned tunnel without requesting permission from the local authorities).

Engineers should be looked upon as agents of change, however, the balance between politics and engineering is a delicate one. Some of the greatest minds in history, such as Newton and Da Vinci, focused on politics and philosophy while furthering science and engineering.

So when it comes time to vote in November, what should engineers do? Approach the situation as an intelligent adult. Realize that the leader chosen by the American public will be the face of the nation to every other country, so choose a leader who exemplifies the basic ethics that support engineering. Furthermore, be a public servant no matter who is in the White House, and be willing to get messy for the sake of your nation and your profession.

THE GRAVEDIGGER

To be honest with you, I don't think I can become the most desired guy on campus with personality alone. That's why I went to the gym... to tone up the body. I decided to work out, but was immediately laughed at by the steroid-based life forms on the bench press. When I moved over to the other side of free weights, I was approached by little Timmy, who proceeded to give me a 24-minute lecture on how to lift a dumbbell with proper technique.

It's not that complicated.

There is no need to explain the up-and-down motion while using a prep-school vocabulary just to sound impressive; this guy wasn't the first one of those types I met. Quickly, I decided to leave. My next plan of action was to hit the swimming pool and follow up with a little b-ball. After the 59-year-old life-guard heroically saved me from drowning, I realized that the former basketball court is now the training grounds for the Iranian national soccer team. Unfortunately, I suck at soccer. Shortly after I moved on, I was dominated by two Asian girls in ping-pong. The gym is no place for me; I started walking out with my head hung low while little Timmy ran by me into the gym.

I noticed that the guys basketball team was playing some CCU. By God, that restored all of my faith. The way they played was true evidence that any person - no matter the skill level - belongs to the gym.

So, I went to the climbing wall and, before you



could say "We got dunked on," I broke my left leg. The day was a success. Do you know how much chicks dig a guy who broke his leg while rock climbing in Costa Rica?

All this time, I thought girls like guys who have large muscles and smooth personalities. Not at all. They just want somebody who can't run away when they start talking about their feelings - a broken leg is their ideal target. I did become the most desired guy by going to the gym.

Facebook Status: The Gravedigger can't wait to go back to Costa Rica and rock-climb with some of the locals.

P.S. Gravedigger out!

Are we ready? | Three history-making Presidential candidates

JT Foss
Staff Writer

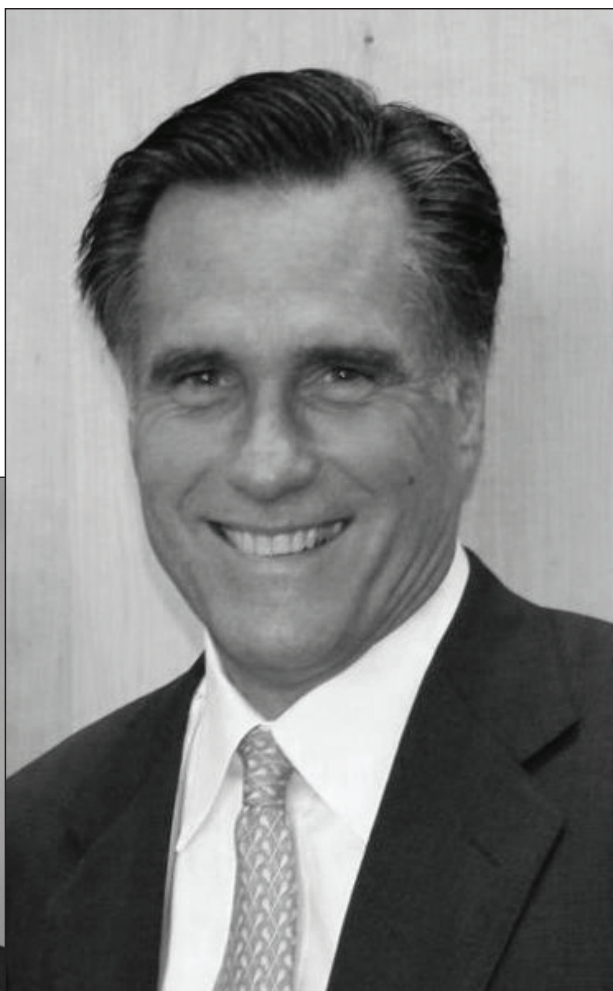
Are we ready? Never before has the possibility of a female president or an African-American president been so real. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have garnered dotting media spotlight due to their specific demographics, considering the usual presidential candidate is an old white guy.

All this focus on Clinton and Obama has overshadowed another candidate with a potentially more important implication: Mitt Romney.

Yes, he's an old white guy, but he's also Mormon. If memory serves, there's never been a Mormon in the Oval Office.

Politically, he emphasizes his understanding of the separation of church and state and, like every other politician, claims to value the interests of the people regardless of his personal affiliations. Romney also tactically omits religion from his political platform, wisely avoiding the estrangement of the largely Christian America.

However, Mitt Romney remains a member of the church of Latter-day Saints, meaning that his actions and thought patterns will reflect his aforementioned religious affiliation. Because he was raised as a Mormon and to this day professes his according faith, he is founded on the morals and



IMAGES COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ideology of Mormonism.

A Mormon commander in chief could be beneficial to the United States. His faith indicates that he likely has a sound set of morals by which he will stalwartly stand. And

because young Mormon men are required to go on a "mission," he will possess a worldly and quite possibly altruistic view of politics.

Strong faith in something as rigorous and devout as Mormonism would likely prevent corruption, which is all too common

in politicians. The possibility of Romney fulfilling the role as a statesman President instead of a politician President is a probable outcome.

But by embracing the faith of Latter-day Saints, Mitt Romney possesses

in America- such as the right to consume alcohol and unhealthy food.

In my opinion, the Mormon faith views the genders differently and unfairly at that. Mormonism fosters the growth, success, and advancement of males. Mormon women do not receive similar encouragement, and often do not achieve levels of

lifetime achievement that other women do.

My point is implicit. Should Mitt Romney take command of our nation, and should you support social progress, defect to Canada. I bear no prejudice towards Mormons, I only fear that their belief system is too radical to govern the lives of the diverse American populace.

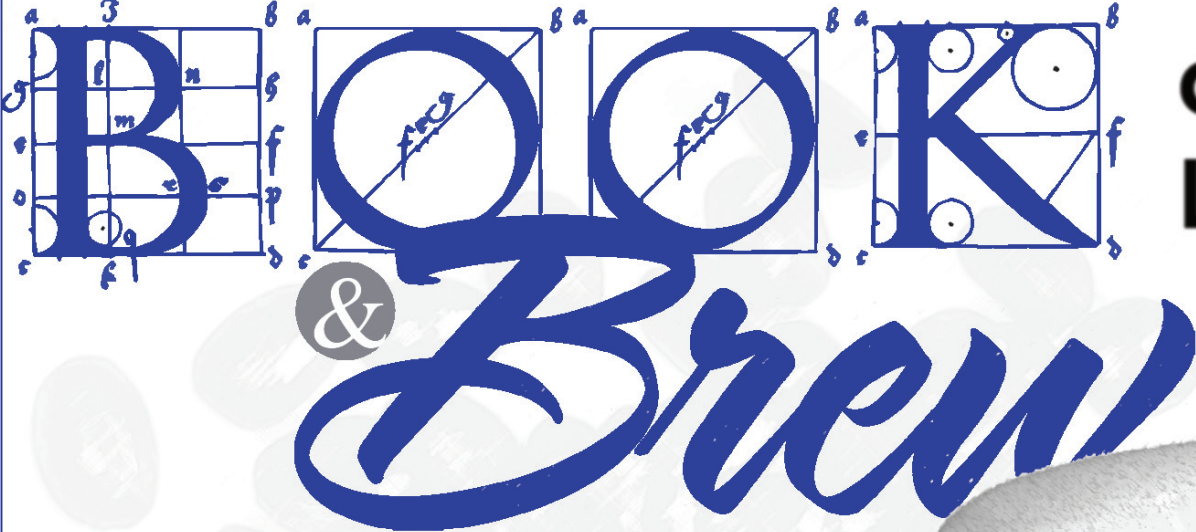


a radically different view of life than does most of this country. Obviously, he wouldn't promote polygamy, but views commonly held by the Latter-day Saints are viewed as incredibly conservative in comparison to most Republicans in America.

Quite possibly, and according to his faith, Romney could detrimentally influence celebrated freedoms

Correction

In the previous issue of The Oredigger, a Letter to the Editor entitled "Open Letter to the CSM Community" should have been signed "Name withheld by request." The Editorial Board regrets the error.



at Arthur Lakes Library

- Poudly Serving Allegro Coffee & Tea
- Organic Espresso Drinks
- Hormone-Free Milk
- Check Library Website for Current Hours



...Get Your Coffee On

Digger Dave's Career Corner

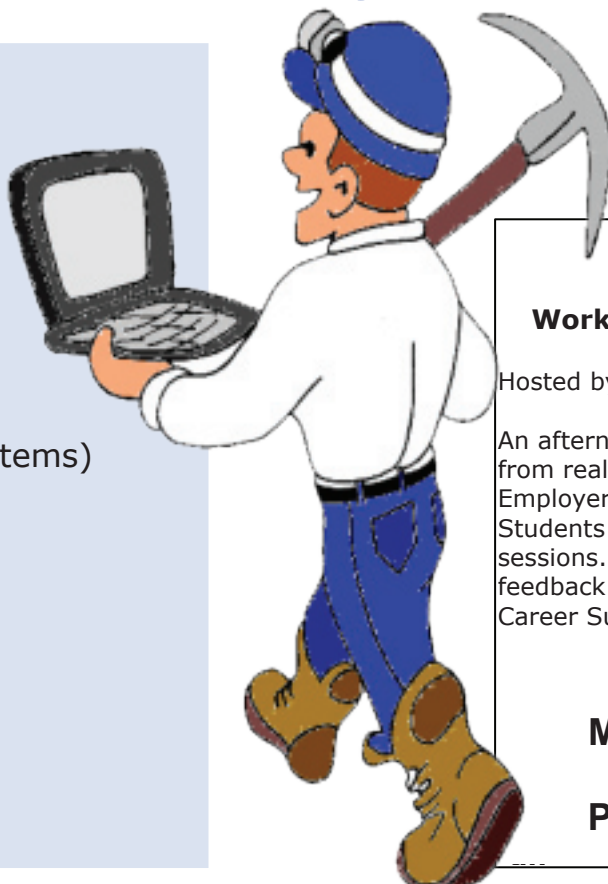
EMPLOYER INFO SESSIONS

Thursday, Feb 7
FAST ENTERPRISES
6:00-7:00 PM, Hill Hall 202
(Math, Computer Science)

Monday, Feb 11
HOLCIM
Lunchtime (12:00-1:00 PM), Ballroom D
(ME, EE, ChE, EV, ESE, MN, ETM, Eng Systems)

Tuesday, Feb 12
KIEWIT
6:00-7:00 PM, Ballroom D
(Civil, Electrical, Mining, ETM)

Tuesday, Feb 19
ECHOSTAR
6:00-7:00 PM, Ballroom D
(Civil, Electrical, Mining, ETM)



WIRED

Work, Interview/Resume Experience Day

Hosted by MEP and Career Center – for ALL Students

An afternoon of professional resume/interview advice from real recruiters! Log onto DiggerNet for a list of Employers participating and to reserve your spot. Students are allowed to sign-up for **two** 20-minute sessions. Use this great opportunity to get last-minute feedback on your skills following your attendance at the Career Success Workshops!

WIRED

Monday, February 11 1-5pm
Student Center Ballrooms
Pre-Register on DIGGERNET

BE READY FOR CAREER DAY – FEBRUARY 12 - COMPANY HOSTED & CC WORKSHOPS
(Get final details and sign up on DiggerNet NOW!)

Monday, February 4

OPTIMIZE YOUR RESUME –
Hosted by URS/CC
6:00-7:00 PM, Ballroom B
Food served!

Tuesday, February 5

THE "VAULT" –
JOBSEARCH TOOLS –
CC Staff
5:00-6:00 PM, Ballroom B

Wednesday, February 6

INTERVIEW SKILLS/STRATEGIES –
Rob Carlson
12:00-1:00 PM, Ballroom D
Food served!

NETWORKING YOUR WAY – CC Staff
7:00-8:00 PM, Ballroom B

Thursday, February 7

FIRST & LASTING IMPRESSIONS –
NW Mutual
12:00-1:00 PM, Ballroom B
Snacks served!

WORKING INTERNATIONALLY –
Gold Fields/CC
5:00-6:00 PM
Food served!